

## Andrew Jackson to John Coffee, September 28, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO JOHN COFFEE.

Nashville September 28, 1813

*D'r Sir:* This will be handed you by Mr James Russle, who I have engaged as a spie. I have had some conversation with Major Gibson on this subject, I have full confidence if he could be spared, he would bring correct information but if others equally fit and confidential can be had, I know the major from the number of troops attached to your regt. can be illy spared. you will push on the spies. information is necessary and must be had. I leave you to make out Russles instructions. When you reach Huntsville consult with Colo. Perkins on the best rout and channel through which correct information can be had. have the mounted gunmen attached to your regt. mustered and organized into companies and Batalion, and this Batalion commanded by your own field officers. I have thought much on this subject, and I am certain there will be more harmony this way than any other. But if you think otherwise I leave you a discretionary power in this particular, Just reminding you if you should get into the field officers a captious disagreeable man, it would render your command disagreeable when harmony ought to exist. Since writing the above I have been favoured with the perusal of a letter from Fort St. Stephens from Mr Gains. I enclose you an extract, you will therefore march to Fort St. Stephens, as soon as you can consistant with the safety of the frontier of Madison County. your arival at Fort St Stephens will give confidence to that frontier, and you can form a Junction with me at some point hereafter to be named. from the manner and causes you have been ordered into the field, upon mature reflection I think it proper that you proceed with as little delay as possible to fort St. Stephen. It will delay my operations, but it will insure payment to the troops under

## Library of Congress

your command and secure the lasting thanks of the government. you can reach that point in fifteen days. Colo. McKee<sup>1</sup> will be with you, and may want a Lt. command[er] to remain at Pitchlynn. If this can be spared it will be well for the protection of the publick property there. I have a hope there will be a sufficient guard for the frontier and that you can move on without delay. you will in the mean time push on Russle with a confidential person with instructions to report to me. you will by express keep me constantly advised of your movements, and the information you possess with respect to the movements of the creeks. Affectionately yours

<sup>1</sup> Col. John McKee was United States agent with the Choctaw. His agency house was situated on the Pearl River, 170 miles above its mouth. (See Major Howell Tatum's Journal, *Smith College Studies in History*, VII. 93.) It was on the Natchez-Nashville road. John Pitchlynn was a leading chieftain and supported the whites.

P S. preserve this, as there is not tim[e] to copy it.